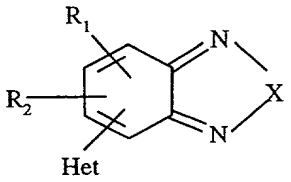
CLAIMS:

1. A compound of formula I



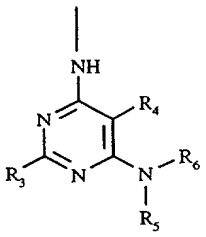
I

wherein

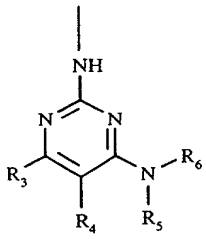
X is O, S, N-CH_3, CH=CH or CAlk = CAlk, where the Alk independently are (C_{1-4})alkyl,

R_1 and R_2 independently, are hydrogen, halogen, (C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{1-4})alkoxy or trifluoromethyl, and

Het is a radical having one of the formulae (a) to (p) below:



(a)



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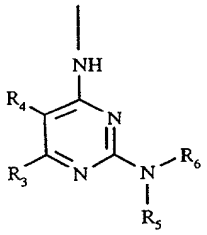

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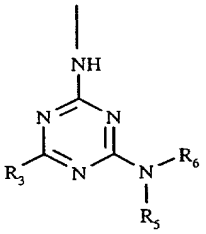

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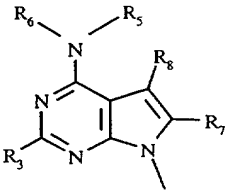

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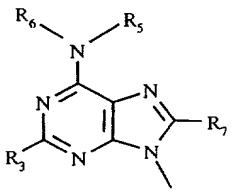

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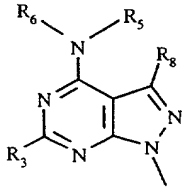

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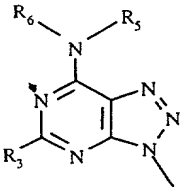

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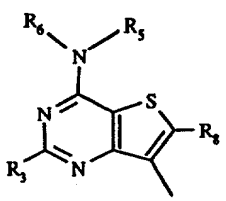

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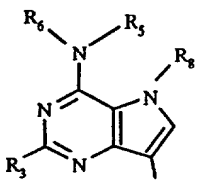

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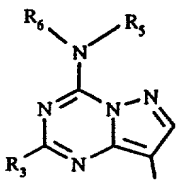

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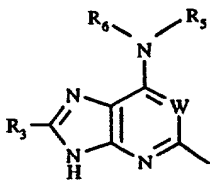

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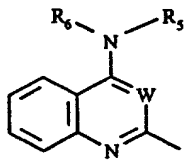

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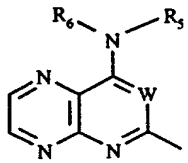

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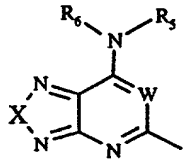

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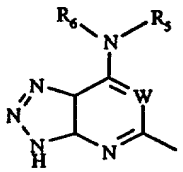


(p)

wherein

R_3 and R_8, independently, are hydrogen or (C_{1-4})alkyl,

R_4 is hydrogen, (C_{1-4})alkyl, cyano, nitro, formyl or (C_{1-4})alkylcarbonyl,

R_5 and R_6, independently, are hydrogen, (C_{1-7})alkyl, (C_{3-7})alkenyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl (C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{1-4})alkoxy(C_{2-5})alkyl or benzyl,

R_7 is hydrogen, hydroxy, (C_{1-4})alkyl or (C_{1-4})alkoxy,

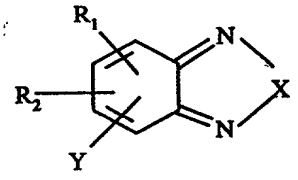
W is N, C-CN, C-NO_2, C-COH or C-CO-Alk where Alk is as defined above, and

X is as defined above,

in free base or acid addition salt form.

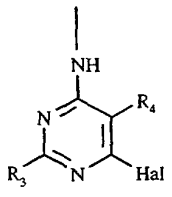
2. 5,7-Dimethyl-4-[2,5-dimethyl-6-(di-n-propyl)-amino-pyrimidin-4-yl]amino-2,1,3-benzothiadiazole in free base or acid addition salt form.

3. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I as defined in claim 1, or a salt thereof, which includes the step of reacting a compound of formula II

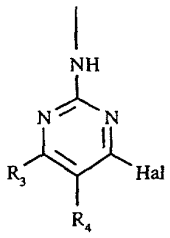


II

wherein X, R_1 and R_2 are as defined in claim 1 and Y is a radical having one of the formulae (a') to (p') below:



(a')



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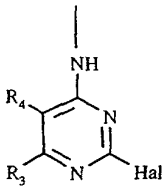

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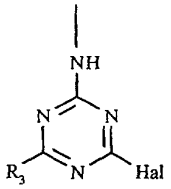

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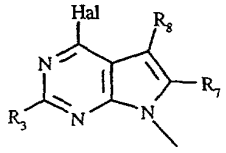

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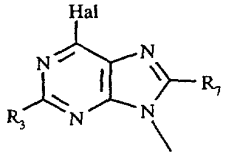

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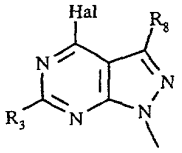

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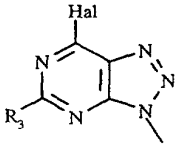

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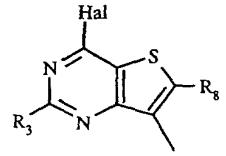

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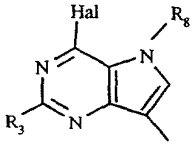

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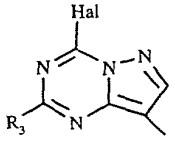

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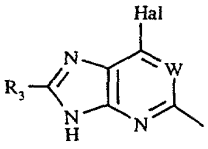

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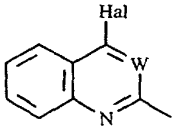

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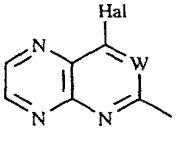

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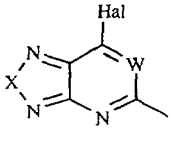

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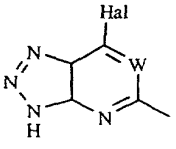
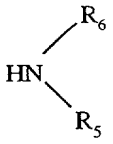


(p')

wherein R_3 to R_8, W and X are as defined in claim 1 and Hal is halogen, with a compound of formula III



III

wherein R_5 and R_6 are as defined in claim 1, and recovering the thus obtained compound of formula I in free base or acid addition salt form.

4. A compound of claim 1 or 2 in free base or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt form , for use as a pharmaceutical.

5. A compound of claim 1 or 2 in free base or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt form, for use in the treatment of any state with increased endogenous level of CRF or in which the HPA is disregulated, or of a disease induced or faciliated by CRF.

6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1 or 2 in free base or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt form, in association with a pharmaceutical carrier or diluent.

7. The use of a compound of claim 1 or 2 in free base or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt form, as a pharmaceutical for the treatment of any state with increased endogenous level of CRF or in which the HPA is disregulated, or of a disease induced or faciliated by CRF.

8. The use of a compound of claim 1 or 2 in free base or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt form, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of any state with increased endogenous level of CRF or in which the HPA is disregulated, or of a disease induced or faciliated by CRF.

9. A method for the treatment of any state with increased endogenous level of CRF or in which the HPA is disregulated, or of a disease induced or faciliated by CRF in a subject in need of such treatment, which comprises administering to such subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or 2 in free base or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt form.